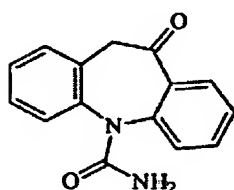


CLAIMS

1. Process for preparing oxcarbazepine of formula

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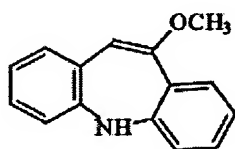


(I)

which includes:

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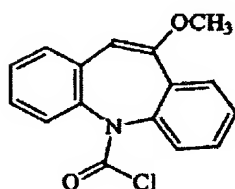
- a) the chlorocarbonylation reaction of the compound of formula



(II)

with triphosgene in the presence of a base, to give the compound of formula

15

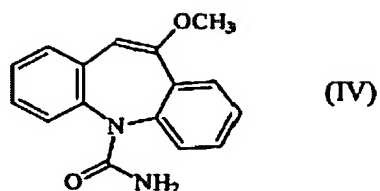


(III)

2. Process according to Claim 1, which subsequently includes:

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- b) ammonolysis of the compound of formula III to give the compound of formula



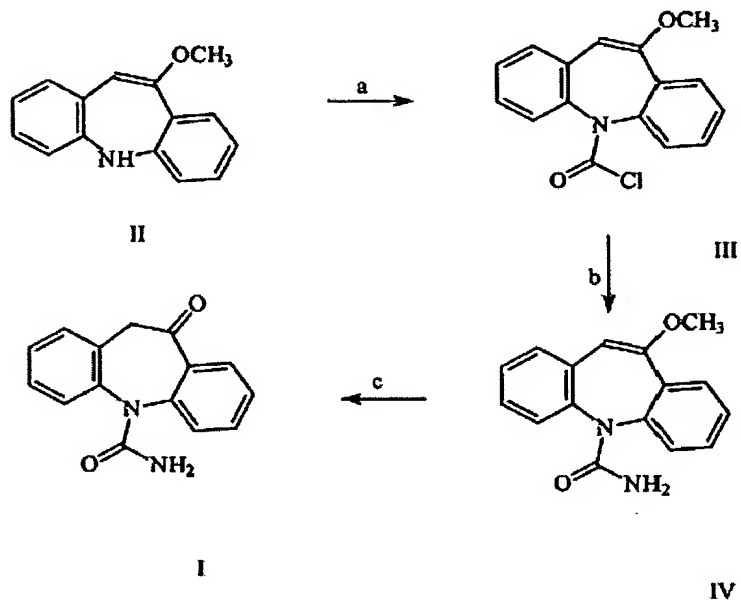
and

- 5 c) acid hydrolysis of the compound of formula IV to give oxcarbazepine I.
3. Process according to Claim 1 or 2, in which the said chlorocarbonylation reaction
a) is performed with triphosgene in a molar ratio, relative to the compound of
10 formula II, of between 0.46:1 and 0.54:1 and more preferably at about 0.5:1.
4. Process according to Claims 1 to 3, in which the said chlorocarbonylation reaction
a) is performed using triethylamine as base, in a molar ratio relative to the
compound of formula II of between 1.4: 1 and 1.6:1 and preferably at about 1.5:1.
- 15 5. Process according to Claims 1 to 4, in which the said chlorocarbonylation reaction
a) is performed in toluene and at a temperature of between 90 and 110°C.
6. Process according to Claims 2 to 5, in which the ammonolysis b) is performed
20 with aqueous ammonia in methanol.
7. Process according to Claims 2 to 6, in which the deprotection c) is performed with
hydrochloric acid in aqueous medium at a pH of about 1 and at a temperature of
between 90 and 95°C.

ABSTRACT

Process for preparing oxcarbazepine according to Scheme 1:

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characterized by the use of triphosgene as chlorocarbonylating agent in step a).